AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system comprising:

(a) a compressed core composition comprising one or more beneficial agents and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein the core composition comprises at least one swelling agent selected from the group consisting of silicified microcrystalline cellulose, crospovidone, sodium starch glycolate, sodium croscarmellose, ion exchange resins and mixtures thereof,

(b) a coat surrounding the core composition, wherein the coat is impermeable to the beneficial agent and other core components~~, but may be permeable or impermeable to water~~,

(c) a passageway in the coat, and

(d) a cover composition applied in the form of a film so as to substantially cover only the passageway, wherein the cover composition comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymers, water swellable polymer, pH –dependent polymer and mixtures thereof,

wherein the swelling agent is present in the core composition in an amount of from 5% to 95% by weight of the system, such that, when the system is exposed to an aqueous environment, the swelling agent swells and exerts a pressure on the coat, thereby rupturing the coat to release contents of the core composition.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition is a pH dependent polymer that is soluble in alkaline environment and the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are susceptible to decreased stability in the gastric environment.

4. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are targeted to the intestine for local action.

5. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that cause bleeding or irritation of the gastric mucosa.

6. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway ~~is such that it~~ contains a water swellable polymer and releases the contents of the core at a predetermined time after oral administration.

7. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway is such that it releases the contents of the core at a predetermined location in the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration.

8. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system provides delayed release of the beneficial agent.

9. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides timed release of the beneficial agent.

10. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides pulsatile delivery of the beneficial agent.

11. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides controlled release of the beneficial agent.

12. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

13. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a timed

controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

14. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed release of the same or a different beneficial agent in a conventional manner, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

15. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by delayed release of another beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms at least one of a plug or a band blocking the passageway.

20. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cover composition forms a plug blocking the passageway.

21. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms a band blocking the passageway.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an immediate release composition comprising the same or a different beneficial agent.

24. (Previously presented): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover composition comprises a water soluble polymer.

25. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film is made from a coating solution after evaporation of a solvent.